

<b>CITY OF WHITEWATER POLICY</b>		<b>TITLE: Heat and Inclement Weather Policy</b>
<b>POLICY SOURCE:</b> Parks and Recreation Department	Parks and Recreation Board Approval Date: 1/7/2013	<b>TEXT NAME:</b> G:\Park & Rec\General Information\Policy\ Heat and Inclement Weather Policy

**I. Purpose**

It is the purpose of this policy to establish guidelines and procedures for how to handle extreme cold and heat/humid conditions in order to protect participants, spectators, and staff in Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department programs and events.

**II. General Statement**

The City of Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department may require that activities be altered or canceled due to inclement weather i.e., thunder and lightning, snow, wind, and extreme heat.

**III. Actions**

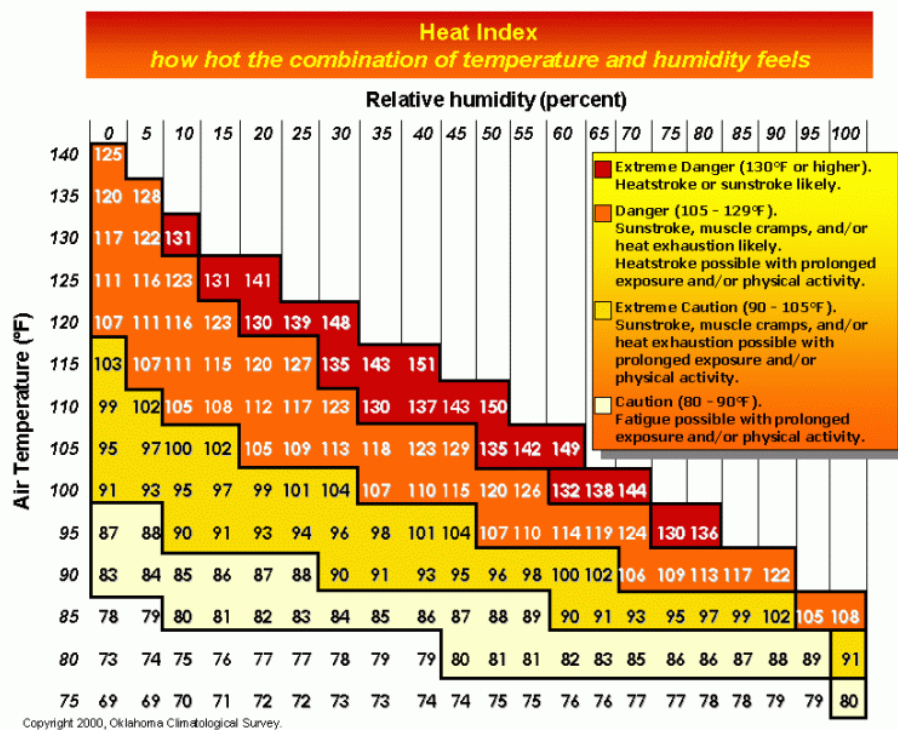
The following policy is hereby established regarding the occurrence of severe weather and extreme heat during Whitewater Parks & Recreation activities:

- A. **THUNDER & LIGHTNING:** Effectively immediately, once lightning is observed or thunder is heard during outdoor recreation activities, all athletic fields must be cleared for a period of 20 minutes. If lightning is observed (or thunder heard) again, the 20 minute period of cleared fields starts over.
- B. **SNOW:** When schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather, all recreation and parks activities for that day are cancelled. For weekend activities, if the City declares a snow emergency after 6 pm Friday or anytime Saturday, all Saturday activities are cancelled. If a snow emergency is in effect after 6 pm Saturday or anytime Sunday, all Sunday activities are cancelled. This includes activities that occur at school sites or City sites.
- C. **WIND:** When a high wind warning is issued by the National Weather Service (NWS), outdoor activities shall not operate within close proximity of trees, power lines and other potential hazards. THE NWS defines high wind warnings as sustained wind speeds of 40 mph or greater for 1 hour or longer or 58 mph or greater for any duration of time.
- D. **HEAT:** Approximately 120 minutes prior to the start of the activity, temperature and heat index reading should be taken at the UW-W Weather page located at <http://www.uww.edu/cls/geography-geology/weather>.

Programs that utilize volunteer coaches will provide heat related education materials to all coaches. The following are guidelines for coaches, program leaders and volunteers to follow with regards to Department sponsored activities for youth, including practices:

Heat Index 80-89	Use caution; monitor participants carefully for necessary action. Encourage additional fluid intake.
Heat Index 90-104	Use extreme caution; remove helmets and other equipment if not involved in contact. Fluid/shade/rest breaks must be taken every 20-25 minutes. Activity should be modified for less exertion. Consider reducing program length.
Heat Index 105	<b>All outdoor programs are canceled.</b> The National Weather Service office will issue a heat advisory when the heat index (combination of temperature and relative humidity) is 105 degrees or more. Indoor events in non-air conditioned buildings are also canceled.

#### IV. Guidelines



#### V. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Parks and Recreation Board for any needed changes or revisions.

NOTE: A separate policy will be created for heat related concerns for programs that occur on artificial turf surfaces.